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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. II, NO. 1

MARCH 1, 1980

LAST CALL FOR THE ASC

This will be the Newsletter's last reminder for the Appalachian Studies Conference which convenes at East Tennessee State University during the weekend of March 21. The ASC Programing Committee and Conference leadership have worked hard and long to develop a program of the highest quality. The Conference sessions will include a wide range of useful information and lively opinion concerning Appalachia as part of a larger global society. Judge Darrell V. McGraw, Supreme Court Justice for the State of West Virginia, will serve as keynote speaker at the Friday dinner meeting. He will address the problems faced by Appalachians in developing regional energy resources and the role of large outside corporations in this process. Dr. Robert J. Higgs will serve as the ASC's Saturday luncheon speaker and will talk about, "Sut Lovingood: Appalachian Superstar." The Conference will also sponsor an Appalachian Book Fair, quilting and weaving exhibitions, a special craft display, and a series of information booths about Appalachian organizations, including Blacks in Appalachia, the Highlander Center, and Appalshop.

Speaking of Appalshop, the Friday night meeting will conclude with the premiere of two of Appalshop's latest productions "Oaksie" and "Strip Mining: Energy, Environment and Economics." On Saturday afternoon, the Johnson City Road Company will present a complete performance of their new production Horsepower: An Electric Fable, about people living in the Tennessee Valley and their efforts to deal with the energy problems of our day. Last but not least, Saturday night, the Dixie Dewdrops and other musical groups will provide a concert for Conference participants. So if you haven't sent in your registration materials, do so at once! If you have not received any registration materials, write or call Martha McKinney, Program Coordinator, Appalachian Studies Conference, c/o Appalachian Consortium, Inc., 202 Appalachian St., Boone, North Carolina 28607. Or contact Richard M. Kesner c/o Archives of Appalachia.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT FOR ASC

The ARC has awarded the ASC a substantial grant for the March 21-23 conference. This grant will underwrite the publication of Conference Proceedings. It will also be used to assist the Programing Committee with publicity efforts and to pay in part for the Road Company production of Horsepower. Most importantly, it will allow the ASC to offer student scholarships. If you are a university professor and have undergraduate or graduate students majoring in Appalachian studies, they are eligible for scholarships that would cover their registration fee. All they need do is pre-register, pay their registration fee and attend the March meeting. ASC will issue them a rebate check at registration. Don't pass up this opportunity to introduce your students to the ASC! For more information, contact Richard M. Kesner, (615-929-4338 or 929-4365).

LAUREL HORTON APPOINTED TO OUTREACH PROGRAM

After a thorough search, the Archives has selected Ms. Laurel McKay Horton as Project Coordinator for our Outreach Program. Ms. Horton holds a B.A. in English and a M.S. in Library Science from the University of Kentucky as well as a M.A. in Folklore from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to her appointment to the Archives here at East Tennessee State University, she served as Special Collections Librarian for Mars Hill College, North Carolina. Ms. Horton has also participated in a number of outreach and community related programs dealing with Southern Appalachian history and culture. Her experience both as a scholar and archivist/librarian have already made her a real asset to our program. We heartily welcome her into the Archives family.

Under Ms. Horton's care the Outreach Program has made considerable progress. With the assistance of the project staff (Ted Cobun, Media Services, Richard Blaustein, Anthropology, and Richard Kesner, Archives) and the advisory board, she has selected the following programs for development during the coming year: Johnson City, Its History and Development; the Quilting Bee as a Social Institution; the Early Twentieth Century Appalachian Farm; Mountain Medicine; Shape-Note Singing; the Railroad and the Cultural Transformation of Southeastern Appalachia; the Tri-Cities Recording Industry; Indians and the Early White Settlement of Eastern Tennessee; the Inns of East Tennessee; and Pat Alderman: The Making of a Local Historian. The first group of slide-tape shows should be completed by late March. They will include the programs on Johnson City, quilting, Tri-Cities music, and Appalachian farming.

We would like to remind our readers that these programs will be shown for free and upon request. Each show will include a short slide-tape introduction and then a longer slide-tape main feature. The project staff will also produce fliers to accompany each program detailing local resources and pertinent information. Our program coordinator will accompany the programs, run them for your group or organization, and moderate the discussion that will follow the shows. Please contact the Director for further information on program scheduling.

THE COMPUTER COMES TO THE ARCHIVES

Thanks to the kind efforts of our friends at the Smithsonian Institution, Jim Crockett, Richard H. Lytle and Alan Bain, the SELGEM System has come to ETSU. SELGEM, which stands for Self Generating Master, is a collection of general purpose computer programs for information indexing and retrieval. It was originally designed to assist the Smithsonian's staff in the physical and intellectual management of their many museum collections. Since that time, it has been adapted for use in the Institution's archives. We intend a similar purpose for it here in Johnson City. At present, Don Hurst, Systems Specialist for the Sherrod Library, is busily attempting to interface SELGEM, built for a Honeywell computer and peripherals, with the University's hardware. Hopefully, the next issue of the Newsletter will report SELGEM's operational status. Once operative, SELGEM will be employed to produce a general guide to the collections of both the Archives of Appalachia and ETSU's B. Carrol Reece Museum.

Also on the computer front, Richard M. Kesner has joined with Don Hurst in a long term project to develop micro-computer software systems expressly designed for use in archives. Because of its flexibility, growing manipulative power, and increasingly inexpensive price tag, the micro-computer offers the archival profession with a potentially valuable tool. Messrs. Hurst and Kesner are experimenting with Radio Shack TRS-80. Once the memory units and impact printer are added to their basic system, they plan to run a series of tests comparing the quality and cost-effectiveness

of these automated systems with presently employed manual systems. By next fall, they envision completing a series of micro-computer packages that will deal with collection accessioning, patron registration, supply inventories, guide generation, and reference services. Their findings will serve as the basis for a micro-computer workshop planned for the Society of American Archivists meeting next fall in Cincinnati. (See "Staff Activities.")

Finally, Anne Sims, a graduate of the University's archival administration program, is the first student to take a recently organized, special subjects course in archival automation, taught jointly by Hurst and Kesner. The course covers basic computer operations, hardware and software terms, training on the QUIC indexing system, hands-on experience with a variety of peripherals, and will eventually involve working with SELGEM and the Archives' micro-computer system. The course is designed for people with training in archives but with little or no prior computer training or experience. Anyone interested in participating in this program should contact Don Hurst, Systems Department, the Sherrod Library, ETSU, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601.

MINORITY AWARDS AVAILABLE

The Archives has access to a University scholarship program designed to assist Black Americans in the pursuit of an advanced degree in some field of the humanities or social sciences. The awards provide graduate assistantships of \$2,500 per year plus a waiver of out-of-state tuition. While completing his or her M.A. degree, each award recipient will receive training in public history and archival administration as well as practical experience in all aspects of archives operations. If you know of students who might be interested in this program, please have them contact the Director without delay. The University is presently awarding assistantships for the 1980-81 academic year; the money will go quickly!!! There is, however, a good chance for success, if you act today.

TRI-CITIES RECORDS PROJECT BEGINS

The State of Tennessee provides Title One money to universities for the development of service projects oriented towards municipal governments. Prof. Tom Hughes of the ETSU Political Science Department recently arranged for such a service project directed at the establishment of municipal records management systems here in the Tri-Cities. The project will employ two archivists, Anne Sims and Susan Tannewitz Karnes, and will focus in its first stage upon the records of Johnson City. The primary objective of the program is to evaluate the present records management procedures of various local municipal governments and to suggest possible improvements. In this regard, the project archivists, under the direction of Richard M. Kesner, will inventory pertinent municipal records, establish retention and disposition schedules, and prepare a report of their findings. This undertaking holds great promise both as a means of cementing Archives community relations and as a valuable training experience for students emerging from the Archives' training programs.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Our photographic consultant, courtesy of a grant from AASLH, Nancy Malan (NARS), sent in her report on our photographic archives in January. Even before it was mailed, the Archives staff began to develop those elements of physical and intellectual control required for the productive use of our photographic holdings. All of our photographic

materials are now arranged into three master collections: the Appalachian Photographic Archives, the (ETSU) University Photographic Archives, and the (Official) University Affairs Office Photographic Archives. Together these collections include well over 100,000 images. We now have all of our accessioning, and indexing procedures operational and have instituted a policy for user access and copying privileges.

David Goodin, who at one time served as a graduate assistant in our program, has returned to the Archives as a full-time processor. Mr. Goodin will share his time between the photographic archives and the outreach program where he will work with Laurel Horton in the preparation of the audio portions of our slide-tape shows. There is still much to do in the photographic archives but with both David Goodin and Dennis Pelletier devoting their efforts to this new department's operation, we can assure our patrons of helpful and efficient service when using our visual materials.

The Archives is always on the lookout for photographs and photographic collections pertaining to East Tennessee State University or to the history and development of Southern Appalachia. Please contact us if you have or know of such collections. We want to make every effort to preserve these valuable records of our past.

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS INTRODUCED

During the coming calendar year, the Archives will serve as the operating base for two research interns. Ms. Jeannette G. McLaughlin (B.A., English, University of North Carolina; M.S., Elementary Education, Syracuse University) is currently completing a M.A.T. in Museum Education at George Washington University. As part of her advanced degree training, she is working on a number of projects here at the Archives. In particular, she plans to complete a photographic and oral history study of Embryville, Tennessee, its social and economic problems. These materials will in turn provide the basis for a slide-tape show as part of the Archives' outreach program. Ms. McLaughlin has also volunteered her services for other outreach activities. Ms. Kathleen Anne Wadden (B.A., American Studies, University of Southern California; M.A., American Studies, University of Pennsylvania) is currently at work on a Ph.D. in American Studies at George Washington University. Ms. Wadden will join us later this spring to prepare a photographic essay on railway people, architecture, and life as it relates to the immediate five-state region around Johnson City. As with Ms. McLaughlin's project, Ms. Wadden's will provide the basis for a slide-tape show and even a museum exhibition in the fall. The Archives staff are pleased to assist young scholars complete course requirements or pursue special projects through our programs. We provide the facilities and the structured learning framework within which our interns can fashion their own independent projects. Contact, Kathryn Wilson, Reference Services for details.

COLLECTIONS OPEN FOR USE

Clinchfield, Carolina, and Ohio Railroad Collection (.5 linear feet). This collection includes a wide range of historical material on the formation of the C.C. and O., with special emphasis on its engineering achievements. The records and correspondence relate to the operation of the Railroad's Engineering Department.

Daughters of the American Revolution, John Sevier Chapter, Collection (1 linear foot and 3 scrapbooks). This collection includes the official archives of this local patriotic organization since its inception in 1908. The material will prove particularly useful to geneologists working in the immediate five-state region.

Sidney Gordon Gilbreath Collection (18.5 linear feet). This collection brings together the surviving personal and official papers of the first president of East Tennessee State University (founded as ETS Normal School in 1911). The collection is rich in information on the history and development of public education in the State of Tennessee and on the expansion of the Normal School into a College.

Theodore A. Honour Collection (1 linear foot). These private papers and correspondence deal with family and civil war experiences of T.A. Honour.

Rogersville Card and Label Company Collection (1.6 linear feet). We have already mounted a museum collection employing this collection which includes a retrospective of Company labels and ephemeral publications.

Human Economic Appalachian Development Corporation Collection (.5 linear feet). This small collection was only recently received by the Archives but due to its interest, it was quickly processed. The HEAD corporation began in 1968 as the Self-Help Task Force of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA). As part of a reorganization effort in 1974, HEAD was formed with offices in Berea, Kentucky and Abingdon, Virginia. The Corporation's primary functions are to provide technical, marketing assistance and other direct technical services to its member groups in order to promote the growth of community based economic and housing development in Central Appalachia. We are most pleased to have this small collection of papers and photographs relating to HEAD Corp. activities in the Archives. It is the type of collection that epitomizes our collecting focus and objectives here at ETSU.

The Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission Collection (.5 linear feet). This collection chronicles the activities of the Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission as portrayed in the efforts and correspondence of Ms. L.M. McCown who served as an East Tennessee advisor to the Commission.

The Harry and William Faw and Judge Samuel C. Williams Collections. These two small collections pertain to the early history of Eastern Tennessee and the origins of the State of Tennessee.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The East Tennessean and the ETSU Buccaneer, two major ETSU student publications, have deposited their old photographs with the Archives. In addition, the editors to both publications have agreed to deposit all future pictures taken by their respective staffs with the Archives once they no longer require them for their own work. But we still need old ETSU photographs. If you have any, please contact us!!!

Human Economic Appalachian Development Corporation: See under "Collections Open for Use."

Holston Methodist Conference Annual Reports (1900-1939); Journal of the Holston Conference (1940-1968); and R.N. Price's five volume Holston Methodism (1903). These fine printed collections came to us courtesy of Roy Strohl, Director of the Kelly Library, Emory and Henry College, and Maribel Elton, Archivist for the Holston Methodist Conference.

Charles Gunter Collection includes seven, seven-inch reel tapes of recorded interviews, musical performances, and folk culture materials pertaining to the people of the Appalachia situated near Johnson City. These records were produced by ETSU Prof. Gunter and his social geography students.

International Woodworkers of America, AFL-CIO, Local 5-313 Collection. This collection includes all of the surviving records of the IWA Magnavox Local that was at one time operated out of Elizabethton Tennessee. The plant closed down and the Local followed shortly thereafter. The collection includes minutes, grievance records, contract negotiations, membership materials, and union financial records. The collection is approximately 8 linear feet in size and will prove useful to those studying labor relations and labor history in Eastern Tennessee.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Pollyanna Creekmore has just published her recently compiled edition of Early East Tennessee Taxpayers (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980).

Mildred Kozsuch has completed her edition with additions of Nathaniel E. 'lyder's Historical Reminiscences of Carter County, Tennessee (Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1980). Ms. Kozsuch's book should be out in the late spring.

Laurel Horton has been invited to present a paper on the Archive's outreach program at the next annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists to be held in Cincinnati next fall. In addition, Ms. Horton plans to show a number of our slide-tape shows at a special multi-media forum conducted during the conference.

Richard M. Kesner has had two articles and a short monograph published in the last quarter. These include: "Conservation and Community Action: Bringing the Message Home," Georgia Archive VII, 2 (Fall, 1979); "Outreach at the Archives of Appalachia: A Series of Multi-Media Experiences," History News 35, 2 (March, 1980); and Automation, Machine-Readable Records, and Archival Administration: An Annotated Bibliography (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1980). In addition, Dr. Kesner has been invited by the SAA to run a workshop on the use of micro-computers in archives for the next annual meeting of the Society, next fall in Cincinnati. Don Hurst of the Sherrod Library (ETSU) will present a paper at this session on micro-computer software developed for the Archives of Appalachia, including a demonstration module, and Dr. Kesner will present a paper on the present and future applications of micro-computers in archival settings.

DON'T FORGET THE ARCHIVES FUND, C/O THE ETSU FOUNDATION. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. REMEMBER, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!